

RULES OF THE ROAD

Move Over/ Fender Bender Laws

Under the “Move Over” law, motorists are required to move over one lane, if possible, or reduce speed for stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights on the shoulder of the highway, including public service vehicles with amber lights. The “Fender-Bender” law requires motorists to move their vehicles to the shoulder of the road following minor, non-injury crashes. Failure to abide by the “Move Over” law could result in a fine of \$500. Violation of the “Fender-Bender” law could result in \$110 in fines and court costs.

Cell Phone Use

Drivers younger than 18 are prohibited from using a mobile telephone while driving except in the case of an emergency or when talking to a parent or spouse. Violators pay a \$25 fine, but receive no driver license points, insurance surcharge or court costs.

Headlights

Motorists are required to use their headlights from sunset to sunrise and when light conditions restrict visibility to 400 feet or less. Motorists are also required to use headlights while operating windshield wipers during inclement weather.

Helmets

Helmets are required by law when riding on a motorcycle or moped. Children up to age 16 are required to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle.

Safety Belts and Child Passenger Restraints

All vehicle occupants including those in the back seat are required to wear seat belts. Front seat passengers who violate the law will receive a \$25 fine. Back seat passengers will receive a \$10 fine. Children up to age 8 and weighing less than 80 pounds must be secured in a safety seat while riding in a vehicle. Older children must transition to booster seats before graduating to an adult safety belt. Drivers who fail to properly secure their children face \$125 in fines and court costs, as well as a two-point penalty on their driving record. For more information about seat belts and child restraints, visit www.buckleupnc.org.

Traffic Crashes

Traffic crashes involving death, personal injury or property damage of \$1,000 or more must be reported to the nearest law enforcement officer or agency. Failure to make this report may result in prosecution or driver license suspension.

Driving While Impaired

Motorists with a blood alcohol concentration at or greater than 0.08 percent are charged with driving while